Jordans want different site

Wave 19 Oct 1980

Back in 1920 when dams and reservoirs were being built throughout Utah, there was enough land to build those water collectors where they didn't bother many people.

But, times and water needs have changed and that means someone has to give so others can get.

A classic example of the land and water dilemma has been unfolding here in Wasatch County since Central Utah Project officials announced the location of the Jordanelle Reservoir.

The reservoir is named for the owners of the land, the Jordans. They settled in green, fertile Heber Valley in 1859, and have dug deep roots here.

The Jordan land stretches out for miles and is home for the Jordans and for the sheep and cattle that have been their livelihood since they settled here.

The Jordans don't want to see a portion of that livelihood replaced with a dam and reservoir. They have been fighting the Jordanelle and have suggested one alternate site in Pine Valley.

"This is our home, our land and our lives," said Jordan. "We know there is a need for water but who is going to feed all the people who need the water if they take our land away?"

The Pine Valley site that Jordan has suggested is a private valley owned by the descendants of the Stewart family.

They came to Heber Valley in 1901 and also staked out their lives and started ranching.

The Stewart descendants feel the same way as the Jordans. They want to keep their land and the memories that rest on it intact.

Both families say that major faults on their land would exclude them from consideration by the CUP for the reservoir.

But, last week CUP officials said that the Jordan land is the site for the reservoir and it will be built there.

Dennis Williams, chief geologist for the Jordanelle, said that the reservoir can be built around the faults.

Jordan isn't the kind of man, however, to stand around with his hands in his pockets and he said he'll keep working to save his land.

"I still don't think our site is any good," said Jordan. "I'm not going to lay down and just accept this."

No one denys the need for water but the process of getting it seems to hurt a little bit more each year because the wide open spaces aren't as wide as they used to be.

a pie in the face from Patty Boals

A once in a lifetime opportunity for a student! Mr. Dudley receives a pie in the face from Kari Gibb. The pie was sold at the auction for $28.00.